



THE PATRIOTS ALERT



May 2018

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WE GOT OUR DOT !



PHASE III PREPARATION

Class 18-001 continued to prepare for Phase III in the time between their last Phase II drill and their report date to Fort McClellan. Candidates challenged each other to improve their APFT scores at Phase III by training throughout the month of March. Candidates organized a Land Navigation training day at a Virginia state park. Candidates studied all read-ahead materials provided to them prior to Phase III. Class 18-001 ensured all Candidates had the required items before they departed for Phase III.

Class 18-001 wanted to thank WO1 Brian Benson for volunteering to teach a land navigation class to the Candidates on his day off. WO1 Benson provided excellent instruction in land navigation that helped Class 18-001 perform well in Alabama during the land navigation course.

“Opportunity is missed by most because is it dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

Thomas Edison

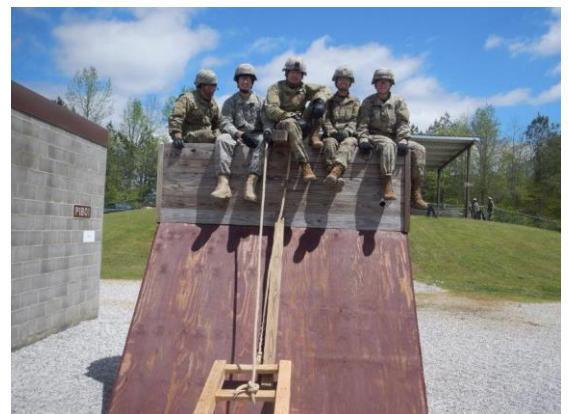
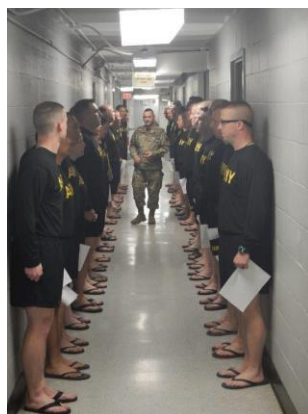
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PHASE III HIGHLIGHTS



On 7 April 2018, the eight Warrant Officer Candidates from Virginia’s RTI reported to Fort McClellan for Phase III of WOCS for in-processing. The Candidates from Virginia’s RTI joined 40 other Candidates from other states around the country. Phase III began with a weigh-in and an APFT. Candidate Routh, from Virginia’s RTI contingent, received the highest APFT score out of the 48 Candidates attending Phase III. Candidates were assigned leadership positions and extra duties immediately following the APFT. Candidate Routh was chosen to be the PTR officer for Class 18-001. The next major event was a week of academic studies followed by exam 3-1. All of the Virginia RTI Candidates scored well on exam 3-1.

The final week of Phase III consisted of a one-week field exercise consisting of numerous graded events. The Candidates were tested on their land navigations skills on Ft. McClellan’s land navigation course. Each Candidate’s leadership ability was evaluated during the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC), during the Situational Training Exercise (STX) Lanes, and throughout Phase III while rotating through various leadership positions. All Candidates performed well during the leadership evaluations. Candidate Snyder received the Leadership award for Class 18-001 for his outstanding leadership during Phase III. This award is presented to the Candidate viewed as the most inspirational leader by their peers. Upon completion of the week long field exercise the Candidates flew back to garrison via Blackhawk helicopter to prepare for graduation.



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“In every battle there comes a time when both sides consider themselves beaten; then he who continues the attack wins.”

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant



“...It is a proud privilege to be a soldier – a good soldier ... [with] discipline, self-respect, pride in his unit and his country, a high sense of duty and obligation to comrades and to his superiors, and a self-confidence born of demonstrated ability.”

Gen. George S. Patton Jr.

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GRADUATION



On 21 April 2018, all of the Virginia RTI Candidates of Class 18-001 graduated WOCS as WO1s. The Candidates from Virginia’s RTI performed exceeding well while attending Phase III at Ft. McClellan. All major awards presented during the graduation ceremony were awarded to Candidates of Virginia’s RTI contingent. WO1 Shawn Snyder won the Leadership Award for being voted the most influential leader of Class 18-001 by his peers. WO1 Shawn Snyder also made the Commandant’s List. WO1 Doug Ferguson was the Distinguished Honor Graduate. WO1 Anthony Routh was the Honor Graduate and also won the award for having the highest APFT score. WO1 BrehAnn Hudgins made the Commandant’s List.



The extraordinary success of the Virginia Candidates was due to the professional Cadre at 183rd RTI and the teamwork displayed by all Candidates from Virginia’s RTI. Candidates quickly discovered each other’s strengths and utilized all skills on hand to the fullest potential. Candidates realized teamwork would be vital and quickly started working as a team from the first drill weekend. Class 18-001 organized study sessions to ensure all Candidates would score well on written exams. Candidates that performed well in specific areas were quick to share their knowledge and experiences with other Candidates. Rally behind the Virginians!

MEET VIRGINIA'S NEW WARRANT OFFICERS



WO1 Doug Ferguson

I enjoy cooking large meals for family and friends, driving my convertible roadster down country roads, and instructing individuals on the safe and proper use of firearms. I am currently on active duty with the Virginia National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (VANG-CD-TF), as a Counter Threat Finance (CTF) Analyst at the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). I want to bring my 13 years of experience as a Cavalry Scout, Intelligence Analyst, Criminal Analyst (CA), and CTF Analyst

with me into the Warrant Officer Cohort. The opportunity to become a Warrant Officer is a true privilege. I look forward to continuing my service by being a mentor for subordinates and as a subject matter expert on Intelligence, Reconnaissance and Surveillance (ISR), CA, and CTF related issues.



WO1 Brandon Paarfus

I am from Chesterfield, Virginia, and I enjoy football, live music, and outdoor activities. The strongest and most capable leaders, advisors, and technical experts I have served under have all been or become Warrant Officers throughout my Army Career. I want to become a Warrant Officer so that I may provide that same trusted guidance, leadership, and technical expertise to soldiers in a field that I am passionate about, and also to better myself and my career in the Virginia Army National Guard.

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WO1 Shawn Snyder

I live a great life with my awesome family! There are many things that I like doing but spending time with my family is what I love the most. I'm married to a wonderful woman who's also a veteran and have two kids. I've been in the Army for close to 20 years with 3 active duty tours and 1 Army deployment with 5 additional deployments as a DoD

and DoS contractor. I want to be a Warrant Officer because I firmly believe that we should always try to challenge and improve ourselves. I want to look back on my career and know that I've done my best and for my children to be proud of what I've accomplished.



WO1 Benjamin Tichner

I enjoy spending time with my wife Danielle and my two children, Jaxson and Kiela. During the summer months, we enjoy camping, visiting Bush Gardens, and traveling. I have served for over ten years and have deployed twice. I decided to pursue the goal of becoming an Army Warrant Officer to take on greater responsibility within the Virginia Army National Guard and the United States Army.

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WO1 Anthony Routh

I am from Pasadena, Maryland and I enjoy mountain biking, surfing, skiing, skydiving, camping, the beach and really anything outdoors. I work in the same field as a contractor and in the military as a SIGINT Analyst. I have worked with numerous Warrant Officers throughout my civilian and military career and have always been impressed by their professionalism, intelligence, dedication and mentorship of their subordinates. They manage to be a subject matter expert and a leader, while remaining focused on the mission. I want to become a Warrant Officer so that I can mentor and train subordinates on both a technical and professional level. I plan to leverage the experience I have gained from both my civilian and military career to become an effective leader and technical expert as an Army Warrant Officer.



WO1 BrehAnn Hudgins

I am from Newport News, Virginia. I currently work for the Virginia Army National Guard at the Department of Information Management as an IT Specialist. I have two energetic daughters, ages five and one. In my spare time, I enjoy outdoor adventures, reading and football (Go Eagles). This is my tenth year serving in the Virginia Guard and I am excited for the next stage of my career.

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WO1 Ryan Merrill

I am from Manassas, Virginia and I enjoy playing golf, boating, fishing, sports and spending time with my awesome wife and two sons age six and two. In my civilian career, I work as an analyst for a defense contractor performing the same line of work as my military specialty. In my time with the Army, I have been most influenced by the Warrant Officers around me and have seen first-hand how they can make a tremendous difference in any unit. I chose to become a Warrant Officer to become a technical expert and determined leader as those that have served before me in the Warrant Officer ranks. The work I do is extremely important to me and I am looking forward to continuing to develop myself and those around me as a Warrant Officer in the United States Army.



WO1 Klinton Snead


Army Warrant Officer, so that I can continue to serve in challenging but rewarding duty positions and more importantly, I want to train and lead soldiers.

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BECOME A WARRANT OFFICER

Any Virginia National Guard Soldier interested in attending Pre-WOC or submitting a Warrant Officer packet is encouraged to contact CW3 Wayne Sexton, Warrant Officer Strength Manager, at:

wayne.s.sexton.mil@mail.mil / 434-292-2236 or 540-810-4044



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A WARRANT OFFICER?

- The 183rd RTI, Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Pickett is hosting a Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate Course (Pre-WOC) from 11-13 May 2018
- Any Soldier E-4 and above (or Aviation Candidates of any rank) can attend Pre-WOC ILO unit drill (as directed by the AAG-A) with prior approval by their unit (Pre-WOC is a MUTA 5)
 - Enrollment can be completed through ATRRS (School Code: 1020, Course: PWOC) or by contacting the Warrant Officer Candidate School Course Manager
- Completion of Pre-WOC is a pre-requisite for any VaARNG Soldier to attend Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS)
- Pre-WOC will give Soldiers an idea of what WOCS will be like at Fort Pickett, VA or Fort Rucker, AL. Soldiers must be physically fit and mentally prepared for this course.
- Questions about course content should be directed to WO1 Alexandra Rodriguez, Warrant Officer Candidate School Course Manager (alexandra.m.rodriguez4.mil@mail.mil) / 434-298-5507 or 434-480-6911)
- Any Soldier interested in becoming a Warrant Officer should contact CW3 Wayne Sexton, Warrant Officer Strength Manager (wayne.s.sexton.mil@mail.mil) / 434-292-2236 or 540-810-4044)

Warrant Officer MOS requirements can be found at: <http://www.usarec.army.mil/hq/warrant/>

“The most important thing I learned is that soldiers watch what their leaders do. You can give them classes and lecture them forever, but it is your personal example they will follow.”

Gen. Colin L. Powell
